



# HOUSING FIRST

PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE



We humbly recognize the many people for whom life has had struggle, and who, at great personal cost, have informed us all of what "helping" should look like. Your collective wisdom has been ignored for far too long. That wisdom is what will lead us to an advanced idea of liberty and accountability in our community. This project is dedicated to you.

Also, we give special thanks to Dr. Sam Tsemberis and the many people at Pathways to Housing who had the courage to ask people what they needed and the tenacity to listen, despite centuries of practice that advised otherwise.





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Canada



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## OVERVIEW

This 3.5-hour workshop is to inspire staff members of homeless serving/housing organizations who are exploring the possibility of adopting the Housing First model. The educational design is based on the power of finding shared values, focusing on strengths, and connecting to human stories. These approaches move people to action.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the workshop, participants will:

- Understand what the five interrelated Housing First principles mean in practice
- Be inspired to integrate Housing First principles into their organization

## PREPARATIONS

- Choose one or two facilitators who have the combined experience of working directly with the Housing First model and facilitating groups of adult learners
- Review the participant's workbook and use it as speaker's notes, if you like
- Ideally, set up the room so that small groups can sit around a table, and everyone can see the screen
- Collect participants' email addresses so that you can share follow-up materials or future workshops
- Download the videos off of Youtube so that there are no mishaps with faulty Internet connections
- Print and bind enough copies of the participant workbook for each person
- Double check that the computer, projector, videos and speakers are working well before the workshop start time

## MATERIALS:

- Nametags
- Unscented markers
- "Parking lot"—flipchart paper to post questions that need to be addressed later (due to time constraints/content)
- Extra pens for participants
- A copy of the participant's workbook for each participant
- Videos downloaded onto computer or memory stick (in case there's trouble with Internet connection)
- Projector and screen
- Speakers
- Computer

## WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

### INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES TOTAL)

- Acknowledge local First Nations territory
- Establish common ground, “We are all here because we share a drive to end homelessness in this region”
- Give brief facilitator’s intro
- Share learning objectives/agenda
- Questions are welcome throughout (if there isn’t time, questions will be “parked” in the Parking Lot)
- Housekeeping (breaks, bathrooms, phones on silent, etc.)

### INTRODUCTION TO HOUSING FIRST (5 MINUTES TOTAL)

- Popcorn style, the whole group brainstorms together what Housing First is
- Explain main ideas of Housing First

### IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO HOUSING WITH NO HOUSING READINESS CONDITIONS (30 MINUTES TOTAL)

- Briefly introduce this principle
- Play the video
- In pairs, participants choose one question from their workbook to discuss now (5 minutes)
- Discuss people’s insights and questions as a large group (15 minutes)

### CONSUMER CHOICE AND SELF-DETERMINATION (30 MINUTES TOTAL)

- Briefly introduce this principle
- Play the video
- Explain that you’ll be switching pairs so that participants can learn from various points of view throughout the workshop
- In a **new** pair, participants choose one question from their workbook to discuss now (5 minutes)
- Discuss people’s insights and questions as a large group (15 minutes)

### RECOVERY ORIENTATION (20 MINUTES TOTAL)

- Briefly introduce this principle
- Play the video
- In a **new** pair, participants choose one question from their workbook to discuss now (5 minutes)
- Discuss people’s insights and questions as a large group (5 minutes)

## BREAK (10 MINUTES)

### INDIVIDUALIZED AND PERSON-DRIVEN SUPPORTS (20 MINUTES TOTAL)

- Briefly introduce this principle
- Play the video
- In a **new** pair, participants choose one question from their workbook to discuss now (5 minutes)
- Discuss people's insights and questions as a large group (5 minutes)

### SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INTEGRATION (20 MINUTES TOTAL)

- Briefly introduce this principle
- Play the video
- In a **new** pair, participants choose one question from their workbook to discuss now (5 minutes)
- Discuss people's insights and questions as a large group (5 minutes)

### SPEAKER'S BUREAU (45 MINUTES)

- Hear from Speaker's Bureau  
(<http://www.raincityhousing.org/what-we-do/vancouver-housing-firsts-speakers-bureau/>)  
on the following questions:  
"How was being part of a Housing First project a different experience for you?  
Do you have any advice for organizations wanting to adopt Housing First principles?"  
(25 minutes)
- Facilitate a question and answer period between the Speaker's Bureau and participants  
(20 minutes)

### WHAT'S POSSIBLE? (10 MINUTES)

- In small groups at their tables, participants do a round where each person gives an answer to the question, "In adopting the Housing First model, what's going to become possible that wasn't possible before?"

### CLOSING (5 MINUTES)

- Thank participants for sharing their insights and questions, and end the workshop on time





